



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Julie Alvis, California Natural Resources Agency

April 11, 2017 | Sacramento, CA



CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL



Action

Approve the 2016-17 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program Final Guidelines.

With Council approval, staff will proceed with the solicitation of projects eligible under the 2016-17 Guidelines via a competitive process. The SALC Program will award an amount equal to 10 percent of the auction proceeds available from the 20 percent continuously appropriated to the SGC from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Actual funding determined after fourth auction for FY 2016-17.



2016-17 SALC Program Overview

Purpose: To avoid increases in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the conversion of California's croplands and rangelands to urban and rural residential development.

Complementary program to the Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program.



CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL

Process to Revise Guidelines for Round 3

- Held two “lessons learned” public hearings in October and November 2016 to inform revisions to 2016-17 SALC Program Guidelines
- Staff released Public Review Draft Guidelines to solicit comments.
- Staff prepared Final Draft in consideration of comments received and with input from multiple Agencies.
- ARB held separate public process related to 2016-17 Quantification Methodology updates.



Eligible Project Types

Strategy & Outcome grants for a specific set of approaches and outcomes that cities, counties and their partners will use to protect agricultural land resources under threat of conversion

Agricultural Conservation Easements grants to permanently protect important agricultural land under threat of conversion.



Strategy & Outcome Grants

Eligible Applicants: Cities & Counties

Ag Land Mitigation Program

Ag Easement
Purchasing
Program

Urban Limit Line

Greenbelt &
Implementation
Agreement

Increased Zoning
Minimum for
Strategic Ag
Areas

What qualifies as
successful
outcome?

Joint ACE application
within the County that
is also successful in the
same grant round.

Official adoption of
policy by appropriate
governing mechanism.



CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL

Agricultural Conservation Easements

Eligible entities with a mission to permanently protect agricultural lands at risk to conversion to non-agricultural uses.

No maximum award, but requires match of 25% of the fair market value for ACEs not located within a Disadvantaged Community, or a match of 10% for ACEs located within a Disadvantaged Community as identified by CalEnviroScreen 2.0.



Important Thresholds



Demonstrate agricultural lands are at risk of conversion

Result in quantifiable greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions per the 2016-17 GHG Quantification Methodology



GHG Quantification Methodology

- The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) calculates the avoided increases in vehicle miles travelled associated with the development potential of the property.
- A project must establish its risk of conversion in order to meet the SALC program requirement to reduce GHG emissions.
- The methodology assesses the risk of conversion on agricultural lands based on patterns of development in the vicinity.



What's Changed in the 2016-17 Guidelines?

- No major policy changes, mostly clarifying edits to language throughout document.
- Revised criteria for projects claiming disadvantaged community benefits.
- Updates to FY 2016-17 Quantification Methodology to include use of new version of the CalEEMod tool.



Revised Criteria for Benefits to DACs

Narrowed options to applicants claiming benefits to disadvantaged communities to criteria related to:

- ✓ Reducing flood risk to adjacent disadvantaged communities; and
- ✓ Providing public access (such as on-farm educational programs) and accessibility by walking within ½ mile of a disadvantaged community.

Revisions assure benefits are meaningful in relation to project types.



Next Steps

- With Council approval of Guidelines, staff will release a solicitation for projects eligible under the 2016-17 Guidelines via a competitive process.
- Release solicitation by end of April, following ARB concurrence with 2016-17 SALC Expenditure Record.
- Technical workshops are being planned for Spring/Summer in Sacramento, Gilroy, and Southern California. Specific workshop for strategy & outcome grants being planned with local agency representatives.



Next Steps, continued

- Pre-Proposal Concepts Due June 1, 2017. This is an optional step for applicants wanting early feedback on proposed projects.
- Full Proposal Deadline: August 1, 2017
- 2016-17 Recommendations for Award: December 2017



Action

Approve the 2016-17 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program Final Guidelines.

With Council approval, staff will proceed with the solicitation of projects eligible under the 2016-17 Guidelines via a competitive process. The SALC Program will award an amount equal to 10 percent of the auction proceeds available from the 20 percent continuously appropriated to the SGC from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Actual funding determined after fourth auction for FY 2016-17.





Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Julie Alvis, California Natural Resources Agency

April 11, 2017 | Sacramento, CA



CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL

